Fig.3a shows the function g(S/N) in linear approximation;

Fig.3b shows the corresponding function g'(N/S);

Fig.4a shows the function g(S/N) as a skewed bell curve, and

Fig.4b shows the corresponding function g'(N/S).

Detailed Description of the Invention--

Page 15, delete lines 18-22 in their entirety.

Page 16, delete lines 1-4 in their entirety.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 4, line 1, delete "any one of the preceding claims" and insert --claim 1--.

Claim 5, line 1, delete "any one of the preceding claims" and insert --claim 1--.

Claim 6, line 1, delete "any one of claims 1 to 4" and insert --claim 1--.

Claim 9, line 1, delete "any one of claims 6 to 8" and insert --claim 6--.

Claim 10, line 1, delete "any one of claims 6 to 8" and insert --claim 6--.

Claim 11, line 1, delete "any one of claims 6 to 10" and insert --claim 6--.

Claim 12, line 1, delete "any one of the preceding claims" and insert --claim 1--.

13. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 12 [and in any one of claims 6 to 11], characterized in that during a silence interval and/or in the presence of an echo signal and for $a_0(k) \leq c_2$, where c_2 is a predefined constant, the power value of the noise level N in the communications channel currently being used is continuously measured and/or estimated, and that depending on the current noise level N, the control signal $a_0(k+1)$ is continuously adjusted according to $a_0(k+1) = f(N)$, where f(N) is a predetermined function of N, said method further characterized in that the control signal $a_0(k+1)$ is continuously adjusted according to $a_0(k+1) = h(N, S, ES, \tau_E, ERL)$, where $h(N, S, ES, \tau_E, ERL)$ is a predetermined function of the noise level